GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:180
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
. INADEQUATE FACILITIES FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
DUKHA BHAGAT

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the annual loss of fruits and vegetables due to inadequate facilities of food processing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted regarding damages of fruits and vegetables; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH)

(a) to (d): In 1995, Government of India constituteda Working Group on Post Harvest Management,Marketing and Exports. This Group estimated that post harvest losses in different crops ranges from 8% to 37%. These losses occur during different stages after harvest. The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research has assessed that losses occur at the following stages :-

(i) Harvesting & pre-harvesting; due to spoilage, spillage and trimming.

(ii) Transport; due to spoilage, bruising, breakage and infection as a result of dust and heat.

(iii) Storage; due to over-ripening or under-ripening, with rain and humidity.

(iv) Processing and packing; due to inefficiency and contamination.

(v) Marketing; due to loss of weight and quality with multi- level handling.

State-wise details regarding damages of fruits & vegetables are not available.